

that lie within its boundaries. It thus provides a voice to community residents and their concerns running the gamut of issues from land use to traffic to sanitation and beyond. After joining the Board in 1985, Mr. Warren became a dedicated and energetic representative for his fellow citizens. His leadership abilities were recognized when he was elected chairman of Manhattan's Community Board 8 in January of 2003. He has just concluded 3 years as chairman. Community Board 8 residents are fortunate that Charles S. Warren will continue to serve their interests as a member of Community Board, where he currently serves as the co-chairman of its Transportation Committee. Throughout a career of professional and voluntary activity, Charles S. Warren has fought for and secured immeasurable improvements to the quality of life of his fellow New York County residents.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his tremendous contributions to civic and public life, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Mr. Charles S. Warren, a great New Yorker and a great American. Charles Warren's dedication to public and community serves as an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representative FRANK WOLF and Representative JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia to recognize the achievements and contributions of the Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce as they plan to commemorate their 50th anniversary.

The Prince William Regional Chamber's mission is to sustain the strong business climate and high quality of life that has made Prince William one of the best places to live in the Nation. It is an organization comprised of more than 1,000 businesses and community groups that work together to strengthen the community and promote the region's business development.

Prince William's business community has grown and diversified tremendously over the Chamber's 50 years of existence. In order to effectively represent the range of member industries, the chamber is comprised of various business councils to ensure all industry perspectives are represented as policies and programs are developed and implemented.

The Regional Chamber is integral to promoting businesses' profitability and effectiveness, but also serves as an important resource for startup and existing businesses. They provide valuable information for area businesses and hold informative seminars on everything from developing successful business plans to creating effective marketing strategies. In addition, the Chamber is active in enhancing the community's quality of life by providing scholarships for area high school students, promoting the efforts of area not-for-profit organizations and community help organizations, and each year honoring area regional public safety professionals who have preformed beyond the call of duty.

We have had the privilege to meet and work with the members of the Chamber on various occasions to discuss the issues that affect the Prince William community and the Nation. The Regional Chamber has maintained a relationship with policy makers at the Federal, State and local level, and they have worked tirelessly to ensure that area businesses grow and succeed.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we call upon our colleagues to join us in congratulating the Prince William County Regional Chamber of Commerce on 50 years of success and wishing the Chamber success in the years to come.

ARTICLE ON FOOD SAFETY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the following article on food safety, which I submit for the RECORD, written by my constituent, Richard Gilmore. Mr. Gilmore is the President and CEO of the GIC Group. Mr. Gilmore's article addresses the issue of food safety. While I may not agree with all of Mr. Gilmore's proposals, I recommend this article to every citizen interested in the integrity of the food supply chain and the safety of the food we consume every day.

[From Barron's Online, Nov. 7, 2005]

GET READY FOR HEALTH WARS

(By Rick Gilmore)

It's not easy to fight a war when the weapons could be candy bars or milk, and if the battlegrounds are in Halloween candy baskets or dairy farms. And if we ever do master these theaters of warfare, we'll have to prepare for other modes of transmission for pathogens, such as fruit and vegetable juices, canned foods, pastas and other grain-based foods, chicken and fish.

As bad as the chances of a pandemic disease may be, the possibilities for a deliberate attack on our food chain are endless. And worse: They are likely because the weapons are immediately accessible, require minimal training, are cheap to produce and offer high kill ratios of innocent citizenry.

Even before 9/11, our government had been thinking about these ugly scenarios. Multiple scientific studies model and quantify the human impact of the deliberate release of a toxin at a dairy farm or a pathogen in a major city. A theoretical study on milk said a terrorist needs to add only 10 grams of botulism toxin to a truck-full of milk to get 400,000 casualties. An aerosol-generated attack of anthrax sprayed with the prevailing wind could affect as much as 35% of the nearby population within three days, with a case fatality rate as high as 70%.

Governments and the private sector most certainly are attempting to build their own territorial defenses, sometimes more effectively than in others. The Australian method of dealing with candy bars allegedly contaminated with a pesticide was to recall all the affected Mars and Snickers bars, crush them, and dispose of them with a deep burial. The U.K. government detected a carcinogenic food coloring in a Worcestershire sauce ingredient, and it notified consumers and withdrew the product from the shelves. Unfortunately, it did not promptly notify other states in the European Union, violating Eu-

rope's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed.

Such accidents are probably impossible to stop. We also cannot eradicate avian flu if it threatens us, but our combat strategy has many weaknesses. President Bush outlined a new plan to spend \$7.1 billion to stockpile medications like Tamiflu and Relenza to combat an outbreak. The country expects to have four million doses on hand by Jan. 1, but the World Health Organization recommends stockpiling doses for at least 25% of the population—73 million Americans.

Whatever our country's plans, problems abound. Roche has made it clear that it is already back-ordered more than a year on Tamiflu, and researchers are concerned that there won't be enough antiviral medicine available to blunt the global onslaught of a possible pandemic. A pandemic triggered by a mutated H5N1 virus, moreover, may not be affected by antiviral drugs or any of the vaccines currently in development. Bush belatedly supported efforts to develop cell-based vaccines that can be produced much faster than today's vaccines, but discoveries don't come on timetables.

The BioShield Act of 2004 was passed to address just the kind of threat we face with avian flu. It sets out to accomplish three goals: speed the Food and Drug Administration's approval of drugs and vaccines to counter a bioterror attack; create incentives for companies to develop new products through government-guaranteed purchases of pharmaceuticals and biologics; and secure long-term stockpiles of such products in case of an outbreak. Despite the fanfare of the program, progress has been slow, primarily because of underfunding and uncertainties regarding liability insurance and intellectual property protection.

When it comes to our defense system against bioterrorism, the whole nation is still held hostage. Each leg of the stool—preparedness, surveillance and protection—is wobbly at the moment.

We're planning for an attack within our borders and have placed minimal attention on what occurs outside them, despite the internationalization of our food system. Food ingredients are imported from around the world and exported to consumers and corporate affiliates worldwide. Kansas and the Punjab are part of the same food chain.

Staple food items now travel a minimum of 1,400 miles from farm to table. And yet, we have a system in place under the FDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture that focuses on U.S. registrations, port notifications and reporting for American-based food companies. Although we seek information on foreign food companies selling and distributing to U.S. companies, the data do not go back to the point of origin. Even here at home we exclude farms, including aquaculture, from any reporting requirements, though on-farm crops are the most likely targets to serve as carriers for the best-known pathogens—stem rust for cereals, Southern corn-leaf blight, rice blast, potato blight and citrus canker. The European Union takes a more thorough approach to traceability, including every link in the food chain from farm to table.

By adhering to a territorial defense strategy, we are leaving ourselves and our trading partners vulnerable when it comes to exports. Right now, a contaminated food item from the U.S. could be exported to another country without our knowledge and without warning to the foreign buyer. European export certification is compulsory unless specifically exempted by the importing country.

Another vulnerability: The pathogen itself. Studying likely pathogens that might be used in an attack is somewhat like finding a needle in a haystack. USDA is now funding